

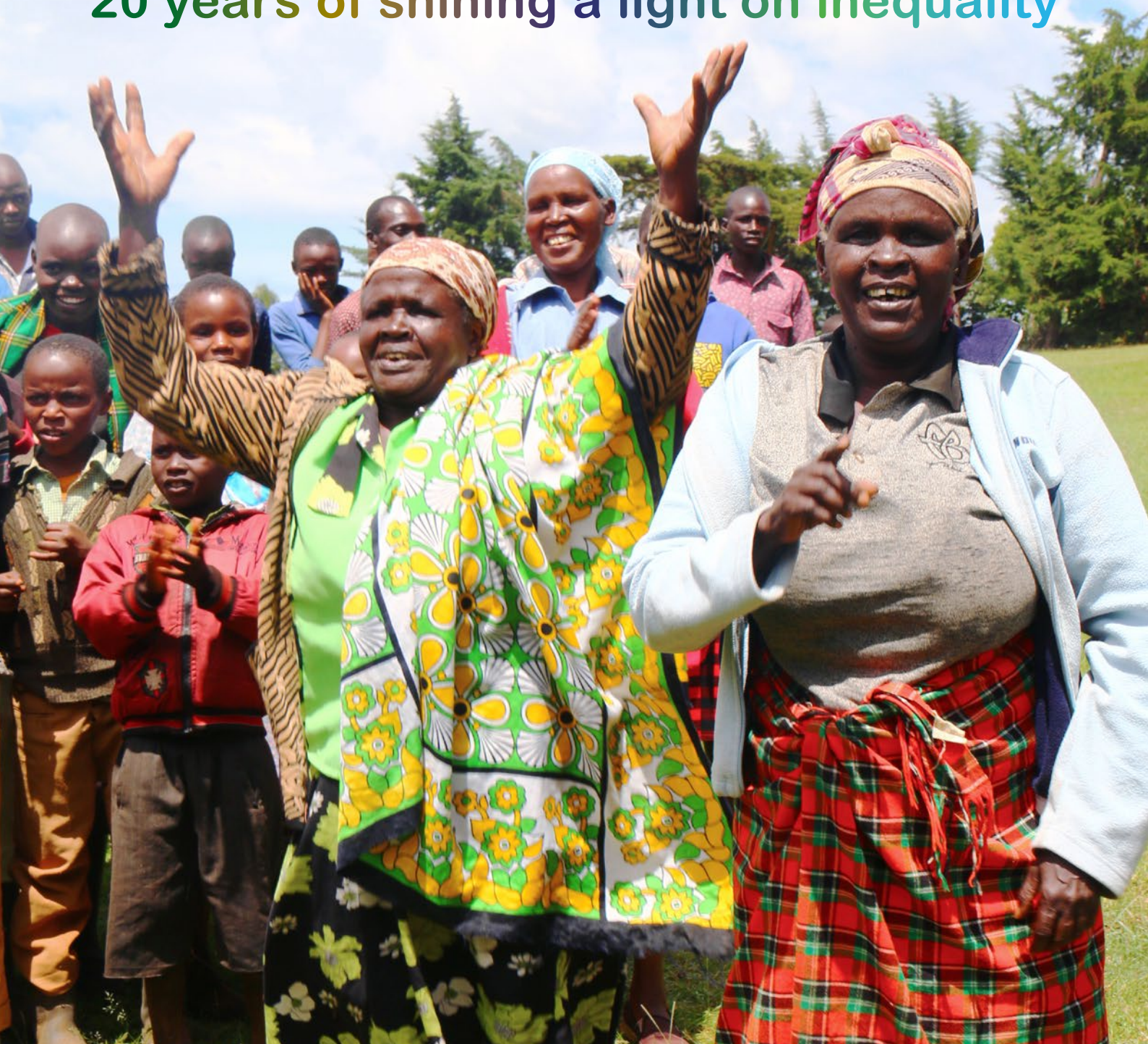


Brighter
Communities
Worldwide

CREATING BRIGHTER FUTURES SINCE 2002

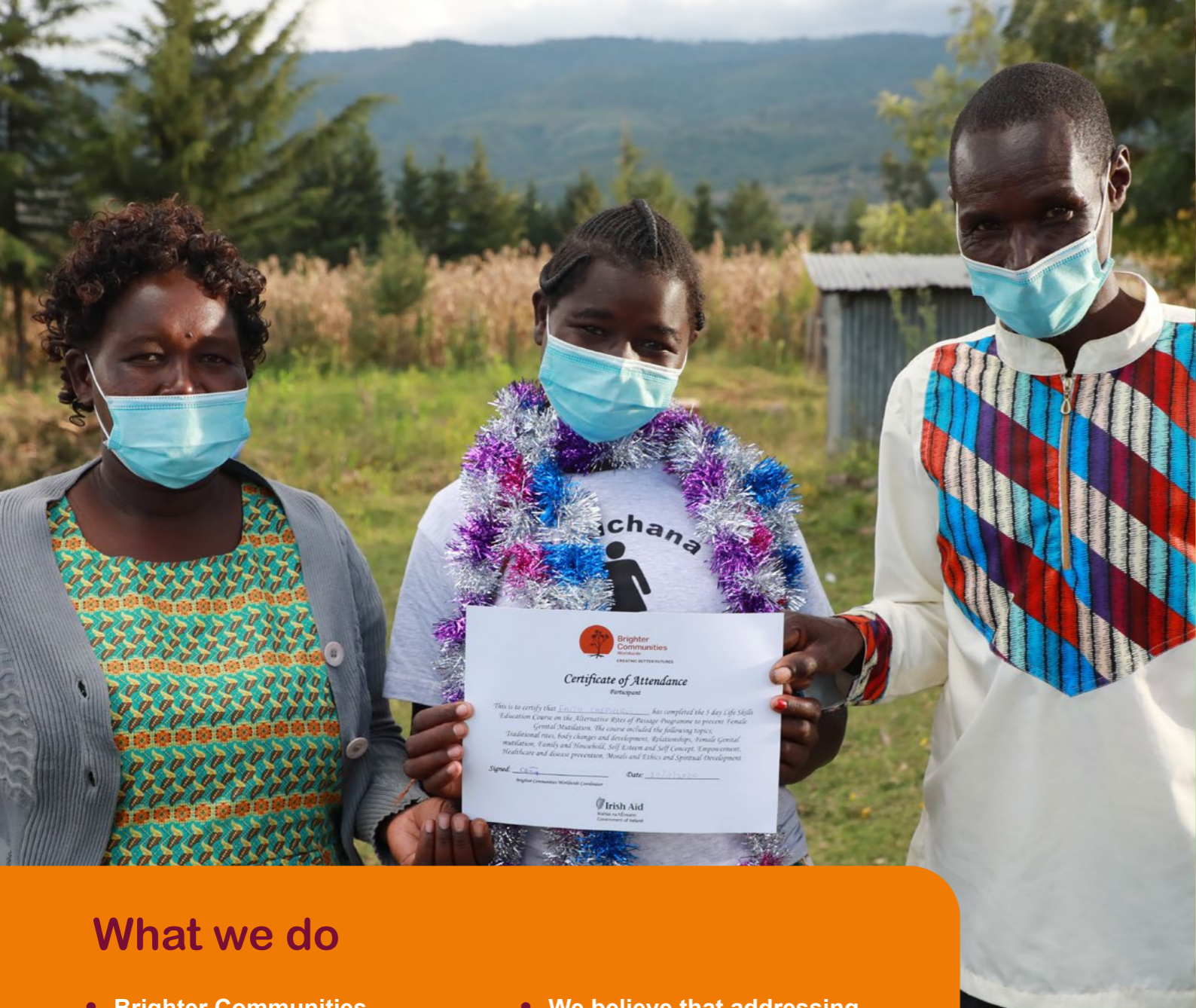
IMPACT REPORT

20 years of shining a light on inequality



Creating better futures

www.brightercommunities.org



What we do

- Brighter Communities Worldwide has partnered with communities in East Africa since 2002 to create a more sustainable future.
- In partnership with local communities we deliver programmes that focus on health, education and economic empowerment.
- We are committed to providing long term, positive change wherever we work, because all communities have the right to create a sustainable future.
- We believe that addressing inequalities is about ensuring that all our programmes are open, accessible and inclusive to everyone in the community regardless of gender, ability, age, education or status.
- We aim to ensure that all barriers that prevent girls and women access to health and education are removed so they can have equal opportunities in life. Where girls and women thrive, communities are strengthened.

Alternative Rite of Passage graduation (November 2020)



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Front cover: Community welcoming party for volunteers on a hike to Tulwapmoi (November 2018)

Contents page: Neighbours in the area of the sustainable trekking route campsite in Ndubusat (November 2019)

Our 20-year **IMPACT**

We have reached:

1,927,516 beneficiaries since 2002

+ Health

59,127 households are accessing health services and understand how to stay healthy

854,334 people were reached with information and resources on Covid-19 prevention, treatment and vaccination

267%↑ increase in safe deliveries with more mothers giving birth in health facilities

Since 2012: **108,986** people living in remote areas have accessed health services through outreach clinics

Since 2011: **7,591** smokeless stoves installed resulting in a 92% reduction in respiratory illness

24%↑ increase in childhood immunisations which means more children will reach their 5th birthday

📖 Education

Since 2005: **112,289** children in schools with clean and healthy environments for learning

We work with 342 schools across the region

Since 2011: **25,000** sanitary kits distributed giving girls and women dignity and independence

24,735 people educated on SRHR*
*Sexual, Reproductive Health and Rights

Since 2009: **23,608** girls graduated from an Alternative Rite of Passage abandoning the practice of Female Genital Mutilation

119,927 community members involved

💰 Economic Empowerment

67% of participants in our business training courses engage in a new income generating project

Since 2009: **1,900** participants

67%

Reflections on 20 years

20 years #ShiningALightOnInequality

Since 2002, we have travelled a journey in East Africa – a journey of hope, friendship, togetherness and change. We asked some of the key people involved to reflect on the changes that stand out through the timeline of a child's life.

Mother and child health

A baby born in Londiani in 2002 would most likely have been born at home in the village. At that time, less than 10% of mothers delivered their babies in health facilities – the majority delivered at home. At that time, many mothers died at home. The likelihood of the child being vaccinated would depend on how accessible the local health facility was.

In partnership with the Ministry of Health, we have implemented an integrated community health approach including maternal, neo-natal and child health, outreach clinics, field days, training of community health volunteers and health care workers, the provision of an ambulance, operating theatre and a maternal health shelter.

Twenty years later, if that same child was born in Londiani, there would be a much higher chance of them being born safely – now over **50% of mothers** deliver in health facilities. There is a higher chance of the child celebrating their 5th birthday (**1 in 20 today from 1 in 9 in 2002**) with their mother who has a greater chance of surviving. Today **more than 70% of children** are vaccinated before the age of 5 due to education and the accessibility of health care.

Family health

In 2002, the homestead this child grew up in was full of health risks. Limited access to clean water and inadequate latrines exposed the child to cholera, diarrhoea



and malaria. Women and girls walked miles daily to collect wood and water causing them to miss days of school resulting in them dropping out of school early. Women's health suffered from cooking over open fires causing lung disease, eye infections and severe burns.

Since our inception, we have worked on the concept of a **healthy homestead** – families now have access to a safe and healthy environment, access to clean water, smokeless stoves and ventilated pit latrines.

This has led to a **31% increase in latrine coverage** across the region, a reduction in malaria and improved health overall.

Smokeless stoves replace open fires and have chimneys to remove the smoke from indoors. Family finances are improved as the amount of wood needed has been reduced by two-thirds which also benefits the environment. Families' health is hugely improved along with standards of living as women have more time to focus on income generating activities.

Education

In 2002, girls did not have the same opportunities as boys. In large families, the education of boys was given priority. School dropout rates were higher for girls as early marriages were common especially following harmful traditional practices such as Female Genital Mutilation. Girls did not understand puberty, had limited or no access to sanitary pads and missed one week in four from school during menstruation.

At school in Kutung Primary School (April 2022)



Today life is different for girls and boys across communities where we work. We believe that investment in **education** is an investment in the future of a community. Since 2002, we have assisted **2,825 young people** through our scholarship programme which aims to support students to complete their education.

When children go to school, they need safe and healthy classrooms in which to learn and play. Our Healthy Schools Programme makes sure of that with improved water and sanitation, smokeless stoves and school clubs for the children to learn about health issues.

Our **Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights** Programme includes education for boys and girls in schools, and men and women across communities. It includes an **alternative rite of passage** for girls, which aims to eliminate FGM and the provision of sustainable, reusable sanitary kits for girls and women, which prevents disruption to school, and work life.

We all know that water is life! It continues to be one of the top three needs of communities in which we work. Since 2006, we have enabled **56,551 people to access clean water**.

Overall, our **Covid-19 emergency response** reached almost **1 million people**. Our response included providing information and resources (soap, handwashing facilities, personal protective equipment (PPE)); training Health Care Workers; preparing health facilities and the rollout of the Covid-19 vaccine across the region providing tents, fridges, vaccine

In just two decades we have witnessed incredible change:

- Health Systems are stronger and more people have access to healthcare
- Communicable diseases have reduced
- More families have increased level of income
- Children born today are healthier than those born in 2002
- Mothers and babies have a greater chance of survival
- More girls are completing their education
- Communities are stronger as a result

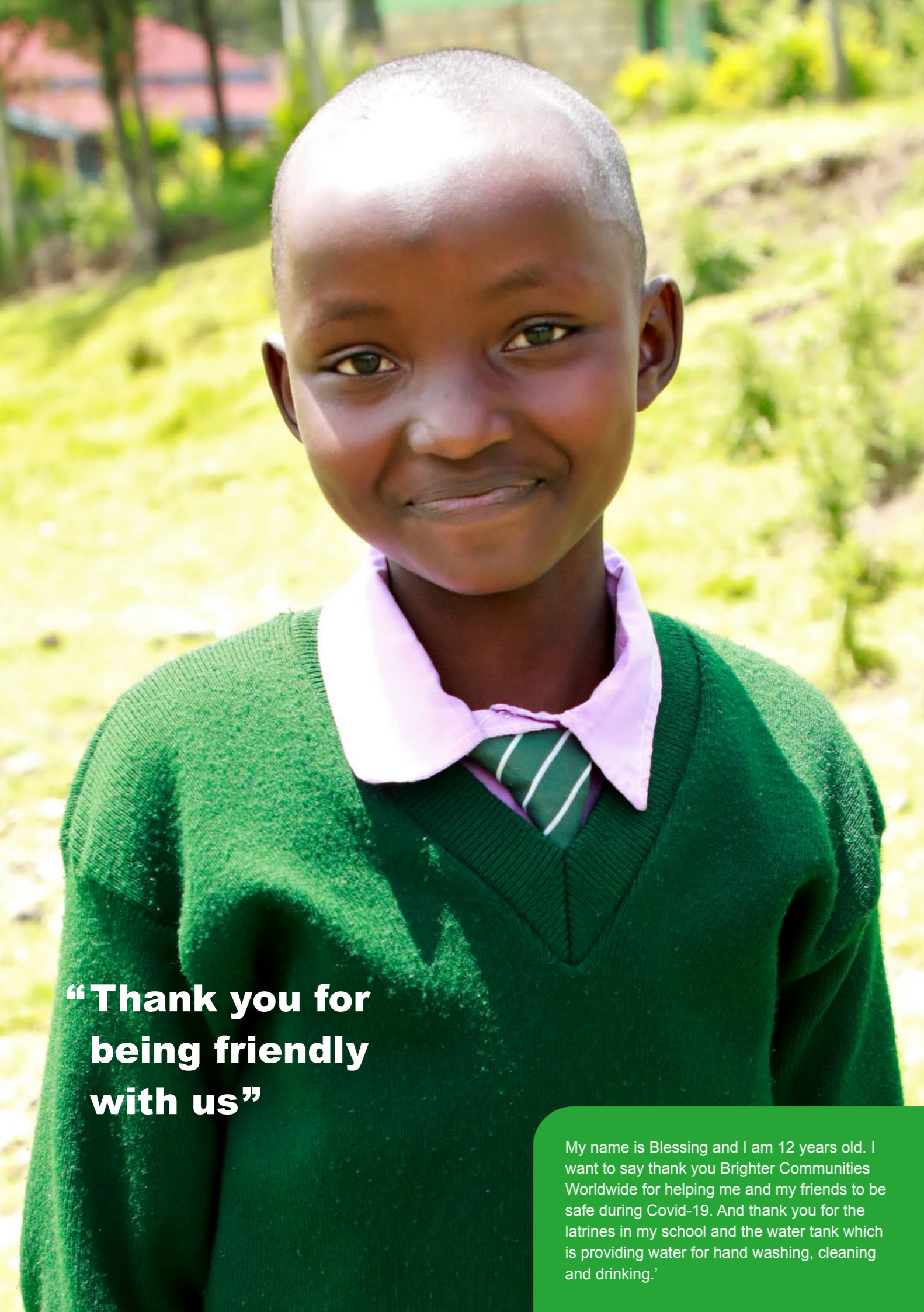
cooler boxes and PPE. There are now over 3,000 passionate, trained community volunteers working across the county.

In partnership with Londiani Sub-County Hospital, Irish Aid, Mayo University Hospital and Esther Alliance, we have put two operating theatres into commission; completed a Maternal Health Shelter and replaced the ambulance which serves the region.

There is more to be done, but the evidence shows that by working together we can achieve great things; we can reduce inequality in the world and we are helping achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Reflections from **Dr Betty Langat**, Board Chairperson; **Damaris Chepkemboi**, Administration Manager; **Martin Ballantyne**, CEO and **Maria Kidney**, Co-founder.

Top: Londiani Sub-County Hospital operating theatre and ambulance (November 2013)



“Thank you for being friendly with us”

My name is Blessing and I am 12 years old. I want to say thank you Brighter Communities Worldwide for helping me and my friends to be safe during Covid-19. And thank you for the latrines in my school and the water tank which is providing water for hand washing, cleaning and drinking.

Our Theory of Change

The change we want to see: as authors of their own development, the people with whom we work lead healthier lives and apply their increased education and knowledge to creating sustainable livelihoods and stronger communities.

What we will achieve



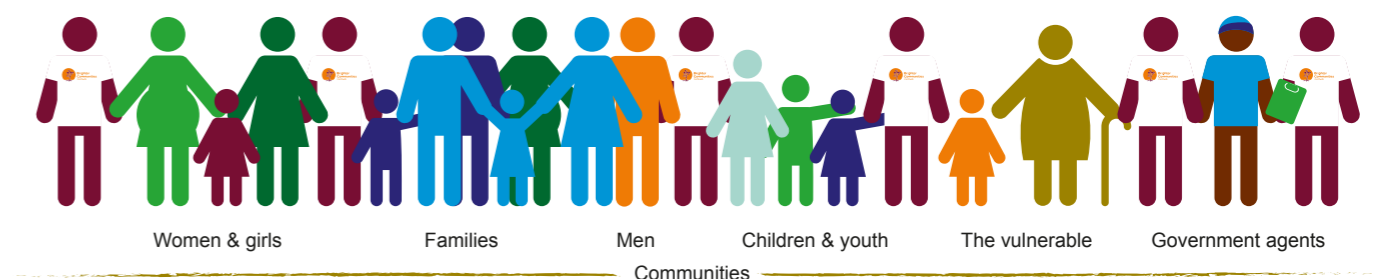
What we will deliver



How we will deliver



Working with people



Who we are

Our vision

A world where strong, healthy communities can thrive, building sustainable livelihoods and brighter futures.

Our mission

To work in partnership with communities, to deliver programmes that enrich their lives and help create better futures for them and their families.

Our values

Our values underpin everything we do and every decision we make. They also help communicate the way we work and how we do things.

- **Integrity** – we are an organisation built on integrity and good governance with a track record for success.
- **Passion** – we are passionate about what we do, it's what compels us to achieve our goals.
- **Togetherness** – we value our partnerships with local people, officials, NGOs and governments. By working together, we are able to improve the lives of everyone in the community.

Our strategic direction

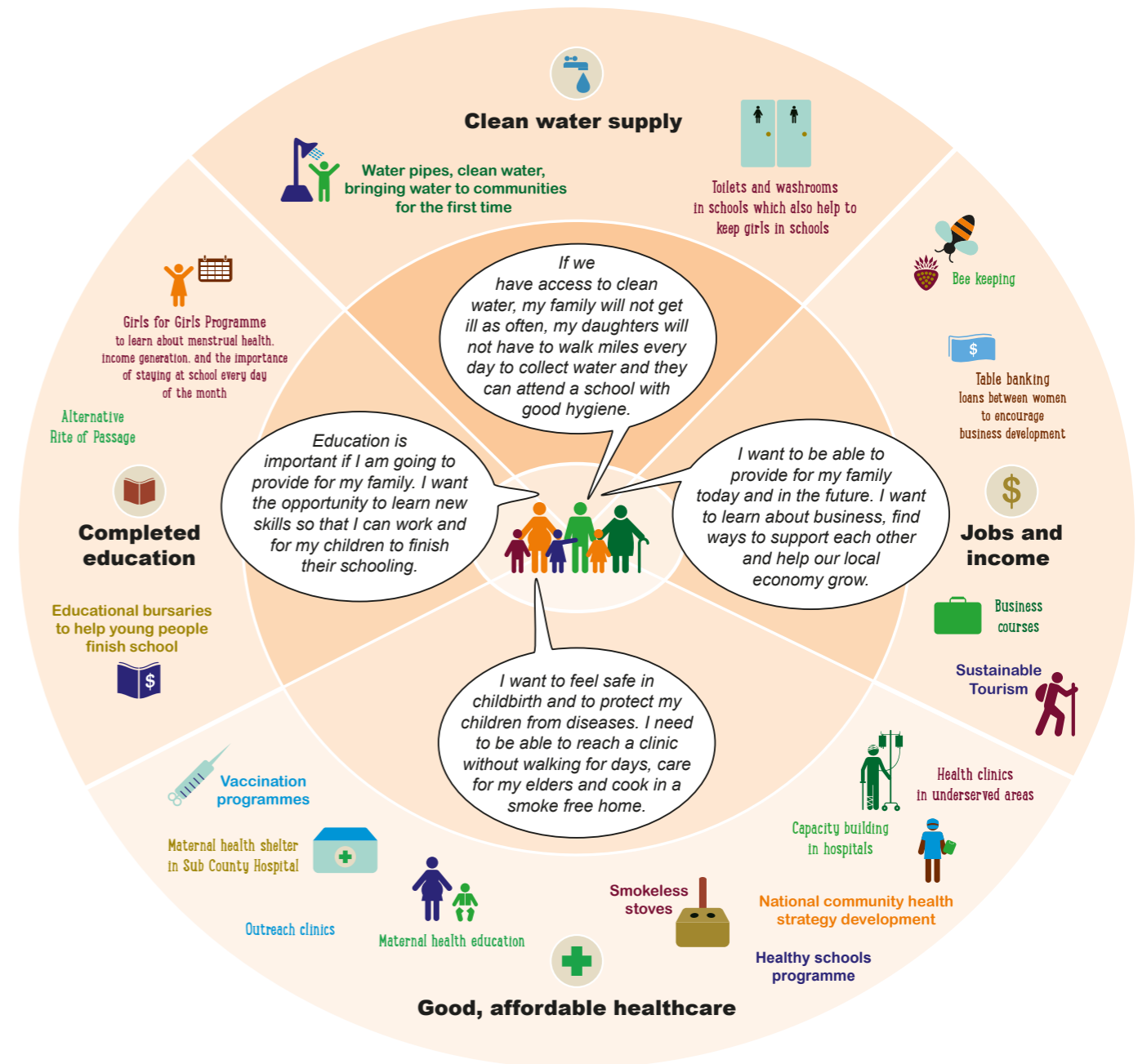
We strive to create sustainable development, help end poverty, fight inequality and reduce the impacts of climate change.

We are committed to contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and we intend to keep the two key principles of the SDGs at the foundation of our strategic plan – 'leave no one behind' and Universality. We will respond to current and emerging needs in the communities we work with as well as being an effective partner. We will leave no one behind.

Our current Strategic Plan (up to the end of 2024) has four main goals:



Our Unique Approach



Creating brighter futures means ensuring:

- ➕ Access to essential health services, a supply of clean, safe water and good sanitation
- 📖 Education to equip people with knowledge and confidence to achieve a productive and fulfilling life
- 💰 Training in the skills and ability to generate an income that can sustain a family



The Global Goals for Sustainable Development

20 years nurturing Brighter Communities

2002-2003

Seeds sown

Founded as



Lifeskills course



Volunteers



Focus on equality

2004-2007

Projects generated

Projects addressing health and education needs were developed focusing on maternal health, lifeskills, water and school health – the foundation of all programmes along with a strong **focus on gender ensuring equal access and opportunities for all.**

2004

Community Outreach programmes initiated



2005

Health facility built in Ndubusat; Healthy Schools programme



2006

Ndubusat gravity water-fed scheme opened; **Irish Aid partnership** began



2007

Essential Obstetrics Neonatal Care programme; **Public Health Field Days**; **Ndubusat Girls Secondary School** established



2008-2017

Established in the community

Building on its foundation, the organisation continued to grow; developing programmes in health, education and economic empowerment based on community needs and aligned with the global goals. Partnerships were strengthened, and more communities joined the journey.

2008

We provided **emergency support** in aftermath of post-election violence



2009

First **Alternative Rite of Passage** for girls and first **business course** in the community



2010

Girls for Girls menstrual health programme launched



2011

Londiani Sub County Hospital **operating theatre** completed



2012

Smokeless stoves began – impact health, economic and environmental outcomes



2015

Esther Ireland Accreditation for hospital link programme; campsite opened on trekking route



2013

Remote Emergency Care expanded to reach more communities



2016

Bringing Health to Communities project started in Uganda



2014

Maternal health shelter constructed in Londiani



2017

Organisation rebranded to



2018-2022

Bearing fruit

Through its partnership-based holistic approach Brighter Communities Worldwide has reached over 1 million people across East Africa. Our Covid-19 response leveraged a 3,500 volunteer network to support communities and the health system. Building on our strengths and experience we will continue shining a light on inequality.

2018

Nothing will stop me Menstrual Health campaign



2019

Spring Protection programme established



2020

Covid-19 response – communities, health facilities and health care workers



“You are the go to NGO”

2021

Covid-19 vaccination roll-out – education, logistical support, provision of fridges and cooler boxes, outreach clinics bringing the vaccine to remote communities



2022

Shining A Light On Inequality; supporting families survive Covid-19, climate change and conflict



“You didn't leave us”



Stronger, healthier families create stronger communities

We work to promote and strengthen the health of the people we work with by making sure they have a healthy living environment, access to the knowledge and information they need to live healthy lives and a health care system that is strong enough to deliver to their needs.

We do this in partnership with community groups, health care workers, volunteers and Ministry of Health personnel. We all work together to help families and communities to take an active role in health and health-related development issues.

When a homestead is a healthy environment then a family will be healthy and the ripple effect moves from home to home creating a healthy community. That is the philosophy behind the Healthy Homestead initiative. It focuses on key areas like space and ventilation, safe water supply, good sanitation, a kitchen garden for nutrition and food supply, rubbish disposal, smokeless stoves to replace open fires, support for improved maternal and new-born health and income generating activities to raise the family's standard of living.

We bring health services to the community with outreach clinics providing mother and child health, ante-natal care, immunisation, reproductive health, malaria treatment and prevention and vitamin A distribution. There are also field days where people can access key health information on preventable diseases, water treatment, deworming, HIV/AIDS, malaria, mother and child health and smokeless stoves. We train volunteers in Remote Emergency Care tailored to providing first aid response in a remote and resource poor setting. We provide training and support

for health care workers to strengthen their capabilities in delivering health services through clinics and hospitals.

For the communities where we work, raising a healthy family is challenged by low levels of health education and a lack of access to basic services including water, sanitation and health care. Health clinics and hospitals are in short supply and transport is difficult because communities live remotely and road infrastructure and terrain are poor. 85% of households rely on burning wood as fuel for cooking and subsequently respiratory illnesses are widespread. Children who survive birth do not always thrive and 1 in 20 will not reach their 5th birthday due to lack of immunisations, poor environmental conditions and because parents don't have the right information or support.

Mother and Child Clinic (Magire Outreach Clinic June 2021)



Stories of impact

“We are very happy about this Outreach Clinic because the distance to the health facility is very far, about 10km and all mothers in my village cannot afford to reach there”.

Esther Sitinei, Community Health Volunteer, Kutung



Esther Sitinei, Community Health Volunteer

Esther Sitinei is so happy to see an increase in attendance at the Outreach Clinic (ORC). The accessibility of the ORC for women makes attendance at ante natal care and ultimately deliveries much more structured and planned.

This ante natal preparation time gives the mother increased knowledge and opportunities to put plans in place for the baby's birth. This ante natal time also provides the Community Health Volunteer with a better understanding of the mothers physical and psychological wellbeing, as well as identifying any risks that may need to be referred to Londiani Sub-County Hospital for more specialist care. The deliveries are also managed in a more planned fashion with increased knowledge of the mother's identity and history.



Andrew Koech, Ambassador for SRHR

“Girls, women, men and boys know that puberty and menstruation is a normal thing”. **Andrew Koech, Ambassador for SRHR**

Andrew Koech is from Kokwet unit in Kipkelion West and he trained as an ambassador for sexual, reproductive health and rights (SRHR) to educate and share information in his community. He has delivered information sessions on all aspects of reproductive health to men, women, boys and girls. He says people in his community are breaking down barriers and talking more openly. The fear and stigma attached to menstruation is gone, days that girls miss school have reduced and there is greater provision of sanitary pads with the introduction of reusable sanitary kits with demonstrations on how to make your own.

Volunteers like Andrew, are key to raising awareness in the community about the challenges and inequalities facing girls and women in the community. Ambassadors facilitate workshops with small groups of men, women, girls and boys encourage openness and provide education that has not always been available. The community realise that sexual and reproductive health is everyone's business and take charge of making changes to address the inequalities that exist.





Providing access to safe water

Water borne diseases put children under 5 at serious risk of illness and even death. School going children risk missing out on classes when schools don't have handwashing facilities and disease is spread rapidly. With the arrival of Covid-19 in 2020, never before has the importance of access to clean water been more essential when handwashing was promoted as the first line of defence against transmission of the virus.

Since 2002 we have responded to the need for clean water and worked with communities to find solutions. We aim to ensure communities can access a supply of clean water for washing and drinking and to improve sanitation at home and in schools. Our programme includes rain water harvesting, water pumps, gravity fed schemes, protection of water sources and improved pit latrines. As a key element of

the Healthy Homestead, community health volunteers play an important role in educating the community on various ways to treat water so that it is safe to use. In schools, we construct washrooms, latrine blocks and ferrous cement water storage tanks. As a result of access to clean water, the incidences of **reported cases of water borne diseases has decreased by 27%**.

Access to clean water is one of the biggest priorities for communities across the region. 55% of households don't have access to safe water and up to 80% of households are without improved pit latrines. Girls and women spend hours each day collecting water from contaminated sources such as ponds, shallow wells, streams and rivers.



Ngariet spring protection project (April 2022)



Water collection point at Ngariet spring protection (April 2022)

Stories of impact

"Access to clean water has been life-saving and life-changing and we know how to sustain this water project for years to come". Joseph Matinkwony



Joseph Matinkwony

Joseph Matinkwony is dedicated to bringing clean water to Ndubusat village and surrounding area. His connection with Brighter Communities Worldwide goes back to 2005, he tells us that as a result of investment in safe, clean accessible water, many people within his community have a standard of living that they were excluded from before the water project. This is a gravity fed water scheme developed in partnership with Brighter Communities Worldwide and the Ministry of Water & Sanitation and serving a population of 11,000. The health benefits are many, with a huge reduction, if not total eradication of waterborne diseases, for e.g., Typhoid at home and at school.

Another benefit of the scheme has been the piping of water to the local clinic and schools. This has enriched the lives of those working and attending the clinics. Likewise in the school settings, children through their teachers are being educated about the management of water.

For girls and women, walking long distances to collect water for the household is now a thing of the past because collection points with shared taps bring water closer to home. Better health and hours saved collecting water allow for more engagement with education and an improved standard of living as the community can engage more in income generating activities.





Knowledge is power

Education did not become a priority until after 1974 when free primary schools were introduced by the first Kenyan government. Therefore, adults in the community may or may not have spent time in school depending on their age. In response to this, we have developed an education programme that operates both in the schools and in the community with the aim of equipping young and old with the knowledge, strength and confidence they need to achieve for themselves a healthy and fulfilling life.

Our **Healthy Schools programme** is about creating a safe and healthy environment where children can learn. It is a partnership between students, teachers, school management, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health. It includes teacher training, classroom studies and involves the children directly as they form health clubs to review their school environment, identify risks and create an action plan to address them. Together we undertake construction projects for rain water harvesting from school roofs, water storage tanks, pit latrines and smokeless stoves.

We have run **Life skills courses** since 2002 where participants explore values, relationships, communications in a safe space and learn about sexuality and reproductive health. Over the years new modules have been introduced in response to new issues that arise e.g. mental health, drugs & addiction, safeguarding, nutrition. The course is delivered using methods that encourage every participant to take part no matter what their age, literacy skills or language.

Education is highly valued in Kenya but school enrolment numbers far exceed the capacity for schools to deliver. Schools are free but parents must pay fees to support their school with extra teachers, learning materials and construction. Most students do not go beyond primary school as the number of secondary schools are limited.

Our **Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Abandonment programme** is about encouraging communities to say no to FGM and replace the practice with a safer, culturally appropriate alternative. The programme engages the whole community, providing information and raising awareness of the dangers of FGM. It involves families, community leaders, health care workers and volunteers who facilitate an Alternative Rite of Passage (ARP) course for the girls.

Sexual, Reproductive Health & Rights (SRHR) is a programme that has developed out of our menstrual health programme in schools and in the community. SRHR is a topic that is difficult for the community to talk about and to access information to inform themselves. To overcome this,

local volunteers train as ambassadors who facilitate workshops for the men, women, boys and girls in their community providing facts, raising awareness



and supporting girls and women with menstrual health. We train teachers to deliver the workshops in schools. We provide 'starter' reusable sanitary kits for vulnerable girls and women. These kits contain underwear, soap, liners, information pamphlets and cotton reusable pads. During the workshops participants are shown how to make additional reusable sanitary pads from local available materials (e.g. t-shirts).

Over the last two decades we have learned that bringing people together is what we do best. When people gather and talk they learn they are not alone. Equipped with knowledge about sexual and reproductive health, life skills, saying NO to FGM they take charge of their future and challenge inequality in their communities.



32,000ltr water storage tank, Kedowa School for the deaf (April 2022)

Stories of impact

"When the Covid-19 pandemic became fierce and the school took a break, you intervened and assisted us a lot. We would like to inform you that the entire Kutung Community are thankful for the work you have been doing and even the work you will still be doing". Josline Chelangat, student



Josline Chelangat

Josline Chelangat lives in Kutung which is in a remote, resource poor part of the county. She was in secondary school when the pandemic started and the schools closed for over a year. Working with community leaders, parents and volunteer teachers, we set up community based learning groups. The children were able to continue learning, have time for play, be safe and get a hot meal and fresh fruit every day.

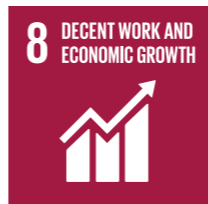
Josline describes what this was like for her community: "You assisted us through community based learning where we were informed about the danger of Covid-19, how to prevent the virus, washing hands with soap, social distancing and wearing a mask.

We were informed about healthy food and you also provided. This was shown by the little kids who were singing everywhere about the fruits they were given. The mature girls who were unable to buy the sanitary towels were so much happy when they were taught on how to improvise the re-usable sanitary pads. Above all we have advanced the school with a kitchen and a smokeless stoves which uses less firewood, is efficient and makes you to work in a non-smoky environment.

We thank you sincerely for your tireless effort you put into this community of Kutung".



At school in Kutung Primary School (April 2022)



Skills, knowledge, resources and peer support

63% of Kericho's population is under 25 years with 19% between 15 and 24 years of age and there is no back up in the form of social security or savings.

However, communities have determination and innovation that can be harnessed to set up income generating projects if resources, skills and knowledge are added. The aim of the Economic Empowerment Programme is to support and promote projects that will raise the incomes, and subsequently, the standard of living of people in the communities we work with.

Participants in business training courses learn skills such as book keeping, budgeting, marketing, writing a business plan and they gain access to a peer support network. Whether that's setting up group projects to grow potatoes, tomatoes, coffee; keeping livestock such as chickens, goats or sheep; beekeeping or even starting a chair rental business. Providing groups with resources and training has a bigger impact than providing them to an individual alone. Coming together as a group drives creativity and promotes good mental health.

A community-based Sustainable Tourism Project started in 2011 is another way in which we aim to raise the economic activity in the region. By helping to develop a community campsite and several trekking routes in the region the project has provided employment and financial benefit to the local communities. That in turn raises the standard of living and it also encourages gender and social equality and promotes biodiversity.

Generating an income to sustain a household is a huge challenge in Kericho county. Approximately 90% of the population are subsistence farmers who rely on the crops they grow and the animals they keep for their livelihoods. Before Covid-19 up to 60% of households were living below the poverty line. This number is higher now as drought, economic fallout from the pandemic and war in Ukraine mean food basics like flour and oil tripled in price during 2022. Most employment available is in the informal sector which is temporary and unreliable e.g. seasonal farm labouring.

Sustainable Trekking Route (November 2018)



Goats for income generating (May 2022)

Stories of impact

"Our income generating project has enabled 17 women to generate an income, making our lives more comfortable".
Caroline Chepkoech



Caroline Chepkoech



Caroline Chepkoech is a teacher and a member of Kolongei Kertai Women's Group who have taken part in business training provided by Brighter Communities Worldwide. The training provided the women with information, knowledge and skills they needed to set up an income generating project.

They wanted to rear goats which is an ideal farming project for their area and they are receiving an income from selling the goats' milk. As well as providing training in 2022, Brighter Communities Worldwide provided the group with goats to get the project started and it has grown since then. The women have encouraged other women to follow their lead and form groups, take part in the training and apply for resources to get started on a project.

Forming a group brings women together providing peer support, direction and keeping the group active. Business training and resources don't just help the individuals involved, they contribute to the improvement of economic activity in the region. Follow up meetings are arranged to offer support and encouragement to the groups and help them deal with any challenges that come their way.



“Our group has expanded, and we now have enough income to support ten members”

My name is Vincent Langat and with my colleagues, I have partnered with Brighter Communities Worldwide to set up a business to provide chairs for event hire. Our group has benefited from the income generated through this initiative, with one direct result being increased school attendance because we can now afford to pay school fees.

Covid-19 pandemic: no one is safe until everyone is safe

The Covid-19 pandemic caused havoc across the globe, exposing deep inequalities that exist and highlighting the gap in health service and delivery between different parts of the world.

We drew on all our powers of innovation, adaptability and determination developed over 20 years into meeting the challenges brought by the pandemic.

Our emergency response focused on information and awareness of Covid-19 in the community, strengthening of health systems, support for health care workers (training and provision of PPE) and protecting marginalized groups from the impact of the pandemic.

During the pandemic, we had to find new ways to deliver our programmes in response to new needs in the community while at the same time observing restrictions and keeping everybody safe. For example:

- When schools closed between March and October 2020, we developed community learning groups for children.
- When communities requested menstrual hygiene management support we developed a volunteer programme of ambassadors who now train on wider topic of sexual, reproductive health and rights.
- When job losses began to impact communities we supported income generating groups with startup resources for group projects.



Together with the Ministry of Health, community groups, staff and volunteers our emergency response enabled the following results:

- Provision of **soap and water containers** for handwashing stations in towns, schools, prisons and homes of the most vulnerable.
- Training **777 Health Care Workers** about Covid-19 and what measures to take to protect themselves and their community.
- Provision of personal protective equipment (PPE) to **61 health facilities** to protect health care workers.
- Training **3,627 Community Health Volunteers** about Covid-19 to enable them to share information in their communities.
- Supporting **Londiani Sub-County Hospital** and **Ndubusat Clinic** to set up isolation wards.
- Providing posters, banners and information leaflets for **sharing in the community** and through health clinics.
- Strengthening the capacity of **Health Care Workers** on the Covid-19 vaccine, storage, cold chain, infection prevention and control.
- Provision of vaccine coolers to **45 health facilities** serving a population of **212,167**.
- Provision of vaccine fridges to **23 health facilities** reaching **91,107 people**.
- Supporting outreach clinics to bring the Covid-19 vaccination to **14,701 people**.
- Supporting the delivery of **500,000 covid-19 vaccines** across the region.
- Construction of a **vaccination centre** at Londiani Sub-County Hospital.

Top: PPE supply to Londiani Sub-County Hospital (June 2021)

Partnerships

Since 2002, we have based our approach to community development on building partnerships with local community groups, government Ministries and stakeholders in Kenya, Uganda, Ireland and around the world. We believe that partnerships are fundamental to strong, local ownership of all our programmes and will lead communities to long-term sustainability.

As two individual organisations, Brighter Communities Worldwide in Ireland and in Kenya work in partnership and are aligned in our vision, mission, values and strategic plans.

We build our partnerships around these core principles – a shared vision of development, participation, mutual accountability and trust and a mutual commitment to long-term change.

The strength and effectiveness of our partnership based approach was seen in our response to the Covid-19 pandemic. With local partners already established across the region we were able to respond quickly to support the community through these unprecedented times. Our local partners include community groups, village elders, community units, school teachers and boards of management, government ministries, our volunteer facilitators and instructors, health facilities staff and our staff team.

Our partners include the organisations who have funded and contributed to many of our programmes over the years.



Irish Aid – we first received Irish Aid funding in 2006 and this supported us to implement projects across all our programme areas. We share Irish Aid’s vision of a more equal, peaceful and sustainable world and the Irish Government’s commitment to ‘Leave no one behind’. We gratefully acknowledge this support and partnership with Irish Aid.

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



Thank you to all our donors and partners over 20 years who have supported communities in Kenya to Create Better Futures including:

- ACC Bank
- Aspira
- Association of Secondary Teachers Ireland
- Baraka Agricultural College
- Engineers without Borders USA – Central Houston Professionals Chapter
- Electric Aid
- ERM Foundation
- Esther Alliance
- For Her Dignity, Canada
- GlobalGiving Foundation
- Irish Embassy, Nairobi
- Irish Foundation for Co-operative Development
- Irish Girl Guides
- JP McManus Charitable Foundation
- Kava Communications
- Kenyan Ministry of Education
- Kenyan Ministry of Health
- Kenyan Ministry of Water & Sanitation
- Mayo University Hospital
- Moneenatieve Windfarms Ltd
- Musgrave Group plc
- Soroptimist International Bangor, Co. Down
- Soroptimist International Cork
- Staff of HSE (Cork and Kerry) Association for the Relief of Poverty (SHARP)
- Surgeon Noonan Student Society UCC
- The Naughton Foundation
- Training Expertise Ltd
- Ulster Girl Guides
- VMWare
- World Association of Girl Guides & Girl Scouts (WAGGGS)
- Worldwide Global Schools



Friends of Kipkelion is a UK registered charity (no. 1188612) founded in 2010, working in partnership with the people of Kipkelion in Kericho County. We have worked as partners since 2011 with both organisations sharing the same aims and values and working together on the delivery of our health, education and economic empowerment programmes. We appreciate your long-standing and extensive commitment and support.



Friends of Kipkelion founder Michael Deriaz with school toilet block (March 2017)

West of Ireland Kenyan Partnership

Brighter Communities Worldwide facilitate a partnership between Mayo University Hospital (MUH) in Castlebar and Londiani Sub-County Hospital (LSCH) in Kericho County which began in 2004. This relationship was born out of volunteer engagement from MUH obstetric, midwifery, nursing and administration staff. The partnership identified community needs in the area of maternal health, in staff training and capacity building and in upgrading the facilities of the LSCH.

Over the years the partnership has developed and with funding support from Irish Aid, Esther Alliance, the HSE Global Health programme and fundraising activities there have been constructions projects – an operating theatre, maternal health shelter, isolation wards for Covid-19 and many continuous medical education projects sharing skills and knowledge between both hospitals.

In 2019, a new partnership collaboration was developed with Kenyatta University and the National University of Ireland, Galway joining the hospitals partnership. We continue to facilitate the *West of Ireland Kenyan Partnership* and work together to share expertise, strengthen health systems, support health staff and address community health needs.

West of Ireland Partnership visit to Kenya (June 2019)



GlobalGiving is a non-profit Foundation that connects other nonprofits, donors and companies all over the world. We joined the foundation in September 2020 and as a GlobalGiving partner we have access to a variety of resources including online fundraising tools, training and support to raise funds for the work that we do. Since 2020, we have taken part in several match funding campaigns, attracting new donors including regular donors and availing of their training and support webinars in the process.

Global Citizenship

Since we began in 2002, we have encouraged and facilitated the people we engage with to question their role and responsibility as **global citizens**. We have the opportunity to encourage people to question the inequalities of the world we live in, deepen their awareness of global justice issues and then choose to do something about it. We can act as advocates for the people we work with whose voices are not always heard.

Over the last two decades, we have done this formally through a **schools network** which linked students and teachers from secondary schools in Ireland and Kenya. This was partly funded by Irish Aid WorldWide Global Schools. Activities between the schools followed a different theme each school year and involved workshops, online communications and action projects. We also facilitated teacher exchange visits between the schools.

We include Global Citizenship Education as part of our training for **volunteers travelling to Kenya** so as to help prepare them for the experience and encourage a mind-set of discussion and questioning of injustice and inequality. We include a debriefing day for the volunteers after their time in Kenya to provide a space to reflect and consider what actions they may want to take as individual global citizens.

Throughout the year we use our **social media channels** to support various global days and activism campaigns such as World Water Day, International Womens' Day, Menstrual Hygiene Day, World Toilet Day and 16 days of activism around the Elimination of Violence Against Women to name but a few. In Kenya these days are celebrated in the community by including them in the programme delivery. We do this to show the communities we work with that they are not alone in taking action against the issues which are part of their daily lives.

Harambee volunteers (November 2019)



Volunteers

Volunteers involved with Brighter Communities Worldwide come from all age groups, backgrounds and experience and without the time they generously give and the skills they share we would be a very different organisation.

In **Kenya** there are thousands of volunteers who train as facilitators for our community based courses, community health volunteers who look after the health of households in their area, community health committees who support the development of Healthy Homesteads, ambassadors who advocate for sexual reproductive health and rights, teachers and parents who give so much to programmes that protect their children such as healthy schools and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Abandonment.

In **Ireland** and around the world we have a strong support base that help with fundraising activities from coffee mornings to craft sale to mountain climbs; sharing our story and promoting what we do with social media, PR and word of mouth; giving a helping hand with reports, mail outs, programme reviews.

Volunteering at our roots

Brighter Communities Worldwide was born out of a volunteer project with 20 women who travelled to Kenya in 2002 to undertake a 2 week project in support of women and orphans in Londiani. They named the project Harambee which is Swahili for 'working together'.



Since then over 670 overseas volunteers have travelled to Kenya 'on Harambee' to work with the staff team and Kenyan volunteers adding extra capacity, sharing their skills, providing encouragement and always gaining far more from the experience than they imagined they could.

Fundraising climb (August 2020)

Reflecting back over 20 years of working with volunteers, we take this opportunity to thank you for your time, passion, commitment, energy, creativity and inspiration.



3,627 volunteers helped share information about Covid-19

Parents and teachers volunteered to run community learning groups during Covid-19 school closures (September 2020)

Governance

Good governance involves putting in place systems and processes to ensure that every charity achieves its charitable objectives with integrity and is managed in an **effective, efficient, accountable and transparent** way. We comply with the Charities Governance Code which was put in place by the Charities Regulator to ensure that charities follow good governance.

Every year we review the Code to make sure we are meeting each of these six principles:



We record our compliance along with the actions we have taken that year to meet each standard. **We are fully compliant with the Code.**

Our financing

We publish our accounts annually and they comply with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) standard and with the Dochas/Irish Aid guidelines on financial reporting.

Structure

We are governed by a board of directors in Ireland and a Board of Management in Kenya. The role of these boards is to govern the organisation in accordance with our mission, vision and legal obligations.

Staff

We have a small staff team in Ireland and a larger staff team in Kenya who look after day to day operations under the leadership of the Chief Executive Officer. These teams are supported by the time, energy and skills of hundreds of volunteers in Ireland, Kenya and around the world.

Signatories and memberships

We are signatories to several codes and guidelines that promote good practice in governance and fundraising, volunteer sending, safeguarding, images and messaging and accountability to the communities we support.



We value and appreciate the solidarity and support we receive as signatories to each of these organisations. We strive to achieve the standards set out because we believe in the importance of working in the best interest of all those involved in the work that we do.

“More children are now fully immunised and mothers can deliver in a safe environment”

I am Mercy Chepkemai and I am a Community Health Volunteer (CHV) with the Magire Community Unit. This is a hard to reach community which now has access to health care with a monthly outreach clinic serving approximately 2,800 people.

Uganda: sharing our way of work

In 2012 the Franciscan Brothers established an agricultural college in Uganda to provide education and training in sustainable livelihoods for rural communities. They have developed an outreach programme focusing on community development needs and in 2016 they asked us to work with them to devise a **community based health project** to meet the needs of the people in Offaka Sub County, Arua District in Northern Uganda. Having worked with us as a partner since 2005 they have seen our way of work develop and have seen the results and the impact on the community in Kenya.

We undertook a pilot project called *Bringing Health to Communities* which completed in 2019. The aim of the pilot was to provide access and an understanding of key health issues in the local community so they would be able to lead healthier lives.

We took our community development model with the Healthy Homestead as the base and adapted it successfully to suit the Ugandan

context. At the end of the pilot, the elements of the healthy homestead were implemented across 4 villages resulting in 44 households living in healthier homes.

Households in each village engaged directly with the project through community discussions and sharing knowledge. Partnerships were strengthened between all parties involved and children and teachers benefited from safer and healthier school environments. It was the first time we took our model from Kenya and implemented it in a different context through partnership, and it worked.

This project gave community members the opportunity to be part of their own future which is hugely significant in terms of taking ownership of the project in an area where 30 years of conflict have led to a culture of dependency. Building on the success of the project, the next step is to work on securing a presence in Uganda to enable us to develop the project further.

Uganda Pilot Project – demonstrating use of mosquito net (April 2017)



The future

As we reflect on our 20 year journey, we also look to the future.

Today we are living in a turbulent world. We are challenged by the three C's – Covid-19, Conflict and Climate Change. With these challenges comes huge uncertainty.

In the horn of Africa we are experiencing the worst drought in 4 decades. Northern Kenya is facing its 5th consecutive failed rainy season, and more than 4 million people are grappling with acute hunger.

Families we work with are feeling the impacts each and every day. Many are hungry, and often skip a meal; income is scarce, and the inequality is extreme. It is very challenging.

We continue to navigate these challenges and strive to leave no one behind. We will continue to contribute to the sustainable development goals.

Our **health programme** will continue to work with communities to enable them to access essential health services, a supply of clean, safe water and good sanitation.

Our **education programme** will continue to equip people with the knowledge and confidence to achieve a productive and fulfilling life.

Our **economic empowerment programme** will continue to give people the skills and ability to generate an income that can sustain a family.

We will continue in solidarity to work with communities.

We know our development model works, it has been proven. It has delivered locally led sustainable change.

Now it is time to reach out further ... more communities and more people.

We want to continue to create brighter futures for all.

We want to create a wave of change:

- **A wave of opportunities**
- **A wave of solidarity**
- **A wave of equality**

For that to happen, we need investment.

- **We need your support**
- **We need your encouragement**
- **We need your partnership**

Continue this journey with us.

Together we will...
#ShineALightOnInequality



Kutung Primary School (April 2022)

Help us Create Better Futures

- Volunteer from Kenya, Ireland or around the world
- Join in our fundraising events
- Make a donation
- Leave a legacy
- Buy gifts from our online shop
- Advocate for the people we work with

SHINING A LIGHT ON INEQUALITY

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